TUTU AND FRANKLIN: A JOURNEY TOWARDS PEACE

Young people and elders creating an inspiring new vision for global racial dialogue and healing.

Airing on PBS stations across the country. February 9, 2001. Check local listings.

A production of Wisdom Works, Inc. (www.wisdomworks.net)

About the Program

Tutu and Franklin: A Journey Towards Peace documents the historic first encounter between Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu and renowned historian and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Dr. John Hope Franklin. On Goree Island, the infamous former slave port off the coast of Senegal in West Africa, the two meet and discover surprising truths about their personal histories and their nations' struggles for racial peace. They are joined in these conversations by an international, interracial group of 21 teenagers. Together they engage in a series of unusually candid encounters on race and begin an emotional journey towards racial reconciliation.

The young people in the film talk about issues that affect them and their lives. They share their thoughts and ideas about their own identity, dating, affirmative action, intermarriage and apologies for past wrongs – and they listen to the perspectives of others. They hear what their elders think about some of the issues, and they make a commitment to carry on their own journeys towards peace.

We invite you to watch *Tutu and Franklin: A Journey Towards Peace* and use this Viewers Guide to begin your own journey towards peace. As you view the film, think about the following questions:

Questions for Reflection

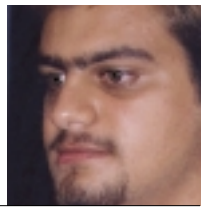
- **What touches me deeply in the video?**
- **Whose perspective do I identify with in the film? Why?**
- **What is surprising in this documentary?**
- **What do I want to know more about?**
- **What would my parents or grandparents think about this film?**
- **What can I learn from the ways that countries like Senegal and South Africa have dealt with issues of race?**
- **What are my concerns about issues of race in my community? In my country? In the world?**

This guide highlights some statements made by young people in the film as they wrestle with issues of identity, reflect on the past and what they can do to create a better future. Read the quotations and consider the questions below them.

Who am I?

For me, I would classify myself as a person, as an individual, as a South African… I'm a human being. I'm a South African.
Lance

I have three cultures. At home, it's Lebanese, outside of home, it's Senegalese and at school, my culture is French.
Georges



I would not, most likely, ever marry someone who wasn't Jewish. I want to marry someone who has experienced things that I've experienced that we can share together.
Jonathan

Questions for Reflection

- **What categories do I use to describe my identity – age, gender, family member, race, religion? Which categories are more or less important to me? Why?**
- **How much do I know about my own cultural background and heritage? Do I want to know more? Where and how can I learn more?**
- **How do I want to pass on my cultural heritage? How important is it for me to be married to or in a relationship with someone who is like me?**

How do we see each other?

I know various white people. I have white friends, and I'll continue to have them. There are good people and bad people in every race.
Oumou

If you don't know someone who's Black, then you – all you have is the media – movies, TV, whatever.
Sarah

It's not to do with color but it's to do with culture. I mean Whites amongst White. Some Whites won't go out with other Whites because the way they've been brought up is so different.
Helen

Questions for Reflection

- What do I think about these quotations from the film?
- What is my first memory of knowing someone who was different from me?
- When and how did I first become aware that society contains different racial groups?
- Do the racial stereotypes in our society have an impact on how I see others? Do they have an impact on how other people see me?
- How much time outside of work or school do I spend with someone of a different race or ethnic group?
- Who in my circle of friends can I talk to honestly about racial issues?
- How often am I in a setting where my racial or ethnic group is in the majority? How does it feel to be in the majority?
- How often am I in a setting where my racial or ethnic group is in the minority? How does it feel to be in the minority?

How do we see our Racial Past and Our Future?

We need to remember what's happened. If we don't remember what's happened before, we cannot understand what's going on now.
John Hope Franklin

We shouldn't dwell on the past, but we also shouldn't forget about it. We have to strike a balance and figure out how to manage it.
Cheikh

Racism is like from generations way back and now doesn't really affect us. It's just the generations before just keep passing it on and we don't even know. Sometimes we even forget why we are mad at other people.
Wendell

Questions for Reflection

- What are the most important historical developments in race relations in my community?
- What do I see as the racial problems in my community?
- What current issues in my community are related to historical problems around race?

What can I do to increase understanding and cooperative action across racial lines?

We need to talk about our feelings; we need to express them in a positive way.
Elli

We have to be tolerant enough to be willing to move in the direction of, first freeing ourselves of any prejudices, and misconceptions, and then of freeing others, giving others an opportunity to free themselves.
John Hope Franklin

Race is important. Race is something that matters. We mustn't pretend that you are not white. We ought to celebrate that fact that you are White, that you are Chinese, that you are whatever. God did not make a mistake in creating you who you are.
Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Questions for Reflection

- What can I do to educate myself about race relations in my area?
- What racial or ethnic group do I want to know more about?
- How can I celebrate the racial diversity in my community?
- What specific actions can I take to increase understanding in my community?

Action Ideas

- Talk to somebody about the film or racial issues in general.
- Join a discussion group or take an adult education course to learn about racism.
- Learn more about a racial, ethnic or religious group in my community.
- Learn more about something that was in the film.
- Try a new ethnic food.
- Attend a performance featuring dance, music or theater from another culture.
- Talk with elders in the community about their perceptions and experiences.
- Invite someone of a different race, ethnicity or religion to a meal or social event.
- Talk with a teacher or librarian about ways they can more effectively use diverse books and materials.
- Help organize an event to celebrate my community's diversity.
- Help organize an inter-faith activity.
- Volunteer to work with new immigrants in my community.
- Intervene when negative remarks are made about racial groups other than my own.
- Find a way to work with others for social justice.

Glossary

The list below includes terms which are referenced and people who appear in the *Tutu and Franklin: A Journey Towards Peace* documentary.

AFRIKANER: Afrikaans speaking descendants of the early Dutch settlers who arrived in South Africa beginning in 1652 Afrikaans The language, derived from Dutch, of the minority white population of South Africa and one of two official languages during the Nationalist Party rule.

APARTHEID: An Afrikaans word meaning "apartness" and representing South Africa's institutionalized racial segregation policy during the Nationalist Party rule.

COLORED: A classification given to people of mixed race in South Africa.

John Hope Franklin is best known for his study, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans,* now in its eighth edition. He has authored many other books and was Chairman of the Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race. He has received numerous awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

GOREE ISLAND: The island of Goree is located less than two miles from Dakar, the capital of Senegal. Goree Island was a slave depot in West Africa in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Millions of Africans were taken from their homelands, and countless numbers of them passed through Goree's so-called "door of no return" on to ships, taking them to the Americas and a lifetime of slavery.

Nelson Mandela became the first leader of a democratic South Africa in 1994. He spent his entire adult life fighting for social justice in his country. His autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, describes his struggles, including his imprisonment for more than 27 years, most of it on Robben Island, off South Africa's coast.

PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE: In 1997, President Clinton, together with an Advisory Board, initiated a year-long effort across the United States which combined thoughtful study, constructive dialogue, and positive action to address the continuing challenge of how to live and work together more productively.

Senegal is located on Africa's west coast. The country's eight million inhabitants include members of ten tribal groups as well as those of French and Arab backgrounds. The majority of the population is Muslim and French is the official language.

South Africa is a country located at the southern end of Africa. It is home to numerous African tribal groups as well as the white descendants of British, French and Dutch settlers. It is a country of diverse landscapes, rich in gold and minerals. It has a long history of racial segregation and repression of South African Blacks. Since 1994, when Nelson Mandela's African National Congress came to power, it has been a democracy.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC): In 1995, The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created to foster the promotion of national unity and reconciliation. Victims and perpetrators of crimes including murder, torture, and racial persecution during the Nationalist Party rule, told their stories to the Commission over several years. Some perpetrators were granted amnesty.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is Archbishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cape Town in South Africa. He is the recipient of many honors and degrees, including the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. He chaired his nation's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and has authored several books.

XHOSA: The Xhosa people are a tribal group in South Africa. Xhosas live mostly in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa and speak the Xhosa language.

The program will be broadcast on PBS stations across the country on February 9, 2001 (check local listings). Check out the *Tutu and Franklin: A Journey Towards Peace* website at www.pbs.org or www.wisdomworks.net for an online version of materials and other information about the project.

This guide was edited by Media Education Consultants, Inc. Contributing writers were: Simone Bloom Nathan, Theo Brown, David Campt, Pat Harbour and Megan Scribner.

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